

ALICE'S WONDERLAND BAKERY

EPISODE/PRODUCTION #: TBD
"The Quest for Cheshire's Treasure Chest"
Outline
10/5/22

ACT ONE

BEAT A: DUSK on HALLOWEEN at the BAKERY. ALICE and DINAH (dressed as CHESHIRE CAT and CHESHIRE KITTEN) are working with COOKIE (in a "fortune Cookie" FORTUNE TELLER COSTUME) on some JACK-O'-LANTERN PASTRIES. Then, the front door <swings> open:

"Trick-or-treat!" exclaims FERGIE (in a KNIGHT COSTUME). He is beyond excited for trick-or-treating: this year he is determined to prove his bravery. "Go ahead, try and spook me!" he says as he takes off his helmet and puts it on the hat rack next to a GLOWING SKELETON. "Oh hi there, skeleton," says Fergie. A beat. "SKELETON!!" says Fergie as he leaps, startled! He lands and realizes the skeleton is HATTIE wearing a glow-in-the-dark SKELETON onesie costume. As Fergie settles, an adorable MOME RATH pokes its head up from behind the counter, "Here are the stems for our pumpkin pastries!" ROSA announces, causing Fergie to cower again. But Cookie hops over and places a supportive bookmark on his shoulder; he'll be brave when it counts: trick-or-treating!

BEAT B: The mere mention of trick-or-treating gets the friends excited: they can't wait to get going! Rosa is eager to see Wonderland like she's never seen it before; Hattie got a fortune cookie (from Fortune Cookie!) that says he's going to take them somewhere unexpected - and he can't wait to see where; Fergie knows trick-or-treating will offer the chance he's been waiting for to prove his bravery; and for a food purveyor like Alice, there is something special about the joy on people's faces when they get a perfect Halloween treat - like the ones she's baking now for Cookie to hand out at the Bakery tonight! Alice will be ready to head out as soon as the treats are done.

BEAT C: "So what are we waiting for?" asks Hattie. "Let's get baking!" We launch into our **RECURRING SONG: "THE BAKING SONG" (SPOOKY VERSION)** as the friends all lend helping hands (spotlighting subtle spooky set dressing, e.g., cobwebs on the pantry doors) to finish prepping the jack-o'-lantern pastries.

The pastries go into OVEN as the **SONG ENDS**, with Alice reminding us they'll be ready for trick-or-treating as soon as Oven dings...

BEAT D: Fergie takes a big sniff: it sure smells great; if any trick-or-treaters like cinnamon, they're in luck! Alice sniffs too: he's right. But...that's curious. Her recipe didn't use any cinnamon. Then Cookie takes a big sniff: "That's not cinnamon. It's rain. Cinnamon rain. Which can only mean one thing..." A <PITTER-PATTER> begins on the roof... "A Wonderstorm," bemoans Cookie. For a moment, there's hope. Maybe it'll pass quickly? Then, <BOOM!> Thunder claps. Lightning crashes. The pitter-patter is quickly a *downpour*. Oven shuts off and goes into hibernation. The lights *flicker off*. All trick-or-treating hope is lost.

BEAT E: A LITTLE LATER, the Bakery is lit by the soft glow of CAMPFIREFLY LANTERNS, and the <sound of rain> continues on the roof. The friends are hopeful the storm may pass quickly, but Cookie's been through a few Wonderstorms; she knows they won't be so lucky. Alice thinks they can still have holiday fun, and her optimism is contagious. "We have the pastries in Oven!" says Rosa. But Cookie reveals the collapsed jack-o-lantern pastries: in this case, half-baked is no-baked.

Hattie tries the pantry, but the doors are swollen shut from the rain. Alice checks her trick-or-treating bag: all she has are a few CRUMBS OF SMALL CAKE... Fergie suggests a game: "Everyone do your spookiest laugh!" he says as he giggles adorably (not at all spookily). Then suddenly, the front door <SWINGS OPEN> revealing...

BEAT F: NOTHING! Lightning illuminates the empty doorway as they all creep closer to get a better look... Then, from behind: "What's everyone looking at?" They turn and leap, surprised to see CHESHIRE CAT (in his THREE MUSKETEERS HAT) fade in!

BEAT G: What's he's doing here in this weather? Under MOODY CAMPFIREFLY LIGHTING (punctuated by lightning), Cheshire tells the tale of his long-lost TREASURE CHEST, bursting with *treats* of unimaginable Halloween deliciousness! He hid it during the last great Wonderstorm.

But the *trick*? It's somewhere only accessible during the next great Wonderstorm - which is now! The friends are rapt, eager to see the treasure map - but there is no map; instead, Cheshire memorized a POEM WITH CLUES to the location. We punch in, and under even *moodier lighting*, he recites the poem (think: simple,

cryptic rhyming couplets - a little spooky, a lot of fun). We PAN across the friends; eyes go wide: maybe Halloween won't be a bust after all!

As Cheshire finishes, Hattie asks what it means. "No idea!" Cheshire was hoping they could help decode the poem. The friends are in! (Except Cookie, who offers to stay back, curl up with a ghost story, and look after the Bakery.) "So, where do we start?" asks Fergie. And as if answering, the SMALL DOOR UNDER THE STAIRS <creeeeeaks> open, right on cue.

BEAT H: The friends enter the HALL OF DOORS, Fergie nervously holding back a bit. Alice is certain she can decode the poem, and Rosa is eager to help - but Hattie and Cheshire are already opening random doors to see where they lead. As Cheshire opens one door (where wind *gusts*), he has a sudden lightbulb moment: "<GASP> Wait a minute, I remember exactly where I hid my treasure chest! It's -"

BEAT I: <WOOSH!> Before he can finish his thought, a CINNAMON SWIRL from the Wonderstorm wooshes by and sucks him out the door! Alice is concerned... but Cheshire isn't! As he laughs, enjoying the ride as he's carried off, he yells, "I'll see you there!" But Alice reminds him they don't know where they're going!" He trails off into the distance: "Just follow the poem...!" And wind <SLAMS> the door shut.

ACT TWO

BEAT A: Fergie opens the door again, but now it leads to a completely different location, with no sign of Cheshire! He quickly shuts it, opens it, shuts it, opens it - he gets splashed with water, overrun by various Wonderland creatures (much to Dinah's dismay) ...but has no luck seeing where Cheshire went. Alice keeps everyone calm: as long as they stick together, she knows they can crack the poem and meet up with Cheshire at his treasure chest.

She recites the first line, and immediately she has a hunch! She takes charge like a team leader in an escape room. "Rosa, can you draw a map? Fergie, I need you to think of all the foods that have ever grown in your garden, and Hattie - "

BEAT B: Alice looks up, but Hattie's not there. She turns and sees him at an open door, ready to leap. "I'll check this one!"

Alice reaches out, "Hattie, wait! We have to stick together!" But he's already jumped - so the friends leap after him!

BEAT C: They fall through a clear, nighttime sky, until they soon land - <PLUNK! PLUNK-PLUNK!> - one after the other into a collection of HUGE GLASS BOTTLES floating in a SEA (like the 1951 film). The kids and Dinah ride in the bottles which soon wash up on a TINY ISLAND. They crawl out and spot Wonderland (and the wall of the Wonderstorm) in the distance, but there's no obvious way off the island (after all, you can't steer a bottle).

They search for anything that could help: turning over logs, pushing aside branches... Until Fergie pulls a rock and is overwhelmed by a SWARM of BREAD AND BUTTERFLIES! He yelps, but soon laughs with the others - all happy to see some familiar creatures. As Alice watches them flutter around, she has an idea: "Who wants small cake?" She produces the SMALL CAKE from her bag, and the friends gobble it up and SHRINK! Now the perfect tiny size to RIDE the bread and butterflies, they hop on the creatures who are happy to give them a ride back to the Wonderland mainland. Tiny-Alice hops on Dinah and a swarm carries them off!

They soar over the sea (passing CAPTAIN DODO riding atop a TOUCAN, a la the 1951 film), pointing out LANDMARKS and SIGHTS in the distance, with Rosa particularly taken by this bread-and-butterfly's-eye-view of Wonderland she's never seen before. As the ride ends, they cross back into the storm...

BEAT D: ...And land safely at the edge of a FOGGY, MISTY MUSHROOM GROVE. The kids return to REGULAR SIZE and look around, seeing SIGNS pointing every which way. For a moment it's disorienting, but Alice recites a line of Cheshire's poem aloud which hints at this, confirming they must be headed in the right direction! She's not certain which direction to head next however...until in the distance, they hear *something*: Voices? A song? They follow the sound to investigate...

BEAT E: Soon, they come upon a CLEARING covered by a canopy of mushroom tops where DAD HATTER, MARCH HARE, KIKI THE CATERPILLAR, and the QUEEN OF HEARTS (all in classic WITCH costumes) surround a BUBBLING CAULDRON. "Curiouser and curioser," says Alice, delighted by this night's *unexpected* twists and turns. The group is happy to see Alice and friends too, but they wonder how they found their way here. Alice explains that they're following Cheshire Cat's cryptic poem, but

she's stuck on what the next step is. "Perhaps we can help each other?" suggests Kiki: they can help her decode the poem, and Alice can help them finish their potion.

BEAT F: In an **ORIGINAL SONG: "RESPECT THE UNEXPECTED,"** Alice and friends sing about the *unexpected, unbelievable, uncanny* adventure they find themselves on this Halloween, while the adults sing about the *unsettling Wonderstorm* and the *undeniable need to get their potion right - and fast!* The final step? Adding the precise ingredients for exactly one teacupcake, and Alice is the only person for the job! But when they reveal their supplies, Alice sees that *nothing is labeled* and there are *no measuring cups!* In the song's bridge, she and the friends rely on all their senses, and - crossing fingers - add the ingredients. And as the song soars to its finale... The potion bubbles and *shoots up a column of colorful smoke into the sky:* it worked! The **SONG ENDS** -

BEAT G: And the group cheers: they did it! The adults are grateful: "This potion will bring a quick end to the Wonderstorm, and we couldn't have done it without you!" But Alice and friends are on a quest that can only be completed *during a Wonderstorm* - so if the potion means the storm will end soon, they have to hurry! The adults listen to the poem and decode it: the next step is *through the palace hedge maze!* "But it's so big! That could take all night!" OFF a pregnant beat on worried faces -

MATCH CUT TO:

BEAT H: Those same faces, *frantically* running through the **PALACE HEDGE MAZE**, Fergie checking his watch, not a moment to spare! They're bumping into each other, tripping over Dinah, re-tracing old steps, making no progress. Alice looks up and sees the storm is weakening, and they're all starting to get a little hungry (Hattie offers to share a tum-tum fruit Dad Hatter gave him in the last scene). It's beginning to feel hopeless, but Alice keeps spirits up, saying they just need a faster way through the maze.

Rosa has an idea: there's more than one way *through* a maze... Alice smiles, takes out her **ROLLING PIN**, flips the whistle, and blows a **<SQUAWK-CALL>** that echoes through Wonderland. And after a half-beat, in *soars JABBIE!* Alice asks if he's hungry, and she borrows some of Hattie's tum-tum fruit to give Jabbie the scent... And he's off! He *beelines* straight *through* the hedges to the other side, creating a tunnel for the friends to follow!

BEAT I: Out the other side, a satiated Jabbie lies at the base of a freshly-picked-clean tum-tum tree. The friends thank him with scratches and belly rubs (and Dinah nuzzles!), but the celebratory moment is cut short when Hattie points out where they are: the base of a GIANT WALL WITH NO END IN SIGHT! A VOICE speaks: "What you seek is on the other side of me!" Fergie points to a door far above their heads: how do we get up there?!

The voice, suddenly chipper, offers to come to them - and slides down to their height. It's DOORKNOB (with FRANKENSTEIN-LIKE DEADBOLTS on his frame)! Doorknob clicks his bolts in and out, asking the kids if they like his costume. They do, and they're glad he can help them continue on their search for Cheshire's treasure chest. Hattie tries Doorknob's handle, but it won't budge! Doorknob: "Oh, right: I'm locked!" Alice remembers the poem, "The key is where you last saw me..." The Hall of Doors, wonders Rosa? That's the last place they saw Cheshire. "I don't think so..." says Fergie, as he <sniff-sniffs>...

BEAT J: From around the unseen end of the wall, a CINNAMON SWIRL arrives, just like the one that sucked up Cheshire. All (but Fergie) rush to it, eager to jump in and find the key - but one after the other, they're tossed out! "I wish I had my Wondertag propellers," says Hattie, certain he could navigate the swirl with them. "Or giant bunny ears?" asks Alice. The friends look to Fergie, but he's nervous. "Guess I'm not being brave this Halloween after all..." Alice says it's not too late, but Fergie doubles down. Alice explains that being brave doesn't mean not being afraid; it means being afraid and doing it anyway. No one will blame Fergie if he doesn't want to try it - but doing it despite being afraid is the bravest move of all.

Fergie gathers his courage and hops in the swirl, using his ears to navigate, making it to the top and snagging the key! He returns to the ground an adorably cinnamon-puffed hero. Doorknob invites Fergie to stick the key in his lock and turn it -

ACT THREE

BEAT A: And Fergie tumbles down a RABBIT HOLE, with friends tumbling behind him! <OOOF!> One after the other, they land in a DARK CAVE. As they wonder where they are now, a HAND grabs Alice's shoulder and a GRUFF VOICE asks: "What are you dodo-doing here?" Alice spins to find... *JOJO, MILLY, and BOP!* (The girls in LOBSTER and STARFISH costumes, respectively.) They have

campfirefly lanterns, bringing some light to the cave - and after clearing her throat, JoJo says she's so happy to see more friends - which was the only thing her and Milly's Halloween was missing! And how *unexpected* to find them here: they've somehow stumbled into the most secret cave in all of Dodo Beach! So secret that it can only be accessed during a Wonderstorm...

BEAT B: The friends' eyes go wide: this must be where Cheshire hid his treasure! "No treasure here," says JoJo, who has explored the whole cave. "Just friends. But what a wonderful coincidence Cheshire sent you to the same cave where Milly and I are spending our Halloween!"

"It's no coincidence," says Alice, reciting the second-to-last line of Cheshire's poem. "I think Cheshire Cat meant for us to get together. In fact, I think this is what he was trying to tell us all along..." Halloween is not a bust just because trick-or-treating was rained out. A day is never a bust when it's spent with friends, just like the poem says. Friendship was the treasure all along! The friends all lean in for a big group hug, satisfied.

BEAT C: As the hug breaks, Hattie wistfully recites the final line of the poem: "So just lean back and see how it ends..." and as he leans back, he pushes against a weak part of the wall and *tumbles out of sight!* The friends look in and see him safely below. "I'm okay!" he yells up to them, "but you won't believe what I'm looking at..." The friends eagerly slide down...

BEAT D: They join Hattie, jaws dropping one after the other until we REVEAL: the HULL OF A GIANT SHIP. JoJo exclaims: "It's my Pop's long-lost ship!" They rush aboard (with Milly's engineering smarts helping them cleverly get to the deck) and find piles of what JoJo promises are valuable SEA TREASURES (bottle caps, old shells, and bags and bags of premium bird seed!). The friends celebrate the successful completion of their quest. "We did it! We found the treasure!" says Fergie. But Hattie, passing by as he does a backstroke through the sea of treasure: "We found a treasure, not *the* treasure." After a half-beat, Alice realizes he's right: they were after Cheshire's Treasure Chest, not Captain Dodo's lost ship! But before they have time to deflate -

BEAT E: Cheshire materializes! "You found it!" he says, "And just where I left it!" He floats over to the corner where, from among the shining, shimmering, sea splendors, he plucks a small

but hefty, dusty old TREASURE CHEST, packed so full it's almost bursting at the seams.

The friends gather, and Cheshire goes to open it... But he realizes it's locked! He has no idea where the key could be... "Oh well, thanks anyway," he says as he goes to toss the chest back into the pile. "Wait!" the friends yell, not willing to give up that easily. Milly summons Bop, who gives one tiny **<TAP>**, immediately popping the lock.

Cheshire opens the chest... UP ANGLE: The friends eagerly look on and... deflate. "That's the unimaginably delicious treasure?" asks Hattie. "What'd I tell ya?!" says Cheshire as he removes a single, smushed SOUR PICKLE SANDWICH a little bigger than the chest itself. "Filled all the way to the top, just like I said," he offers as he **<CHOMPS>** his first bite.

BEAT F: Alice hugs Cheshire. It may not have been the trick-or-treating they were hoping for, but there's no denying it was a great Halloween. Cheshire and JoJo found long-lost treasures; Rosa saw Wonderland like she never had before; Fergie was brave; and Hattie took them to many unexpected places, as his fortune cookie predicted. "And you?" asks Rosa. Alice smiles: she might not have seen the joy on their faces when they dig into their Halloween treats, but when it comes to her friends' happiness, she's not picky.

BEAT G: Alice and Rosa share a smile as they watch their friends play among Captain Dodo's treasures. Cheshire takes the final bite of his sandwich and licks his fingers clean. "Here," he says casually as he tosses Alice the seemingly empty treasure chest. "You can have whatever's left."

Alice looks in and, seeing nothing, turns it over and gives it a *shake-shake*. With one final *shake*, a SEEMINGLY ENDLESS SPIGOT OF HALLOWEEN TREATS (including stuff specific to our characters, like carrots, hotdogs, and rose mints, as well as healthy snacks like granola bars, trail mix, popcorn balls, etc. in festive Halloween colors and shapes) begins to flow! It rapidly overtakes the ship, then rattles the walls of the cave, then WHOOSH! It stirs up the last cinnamon swirl of the Wonderstorm which the friends ride down -

BEAT H: - Landing safely back in the Bakery! There's a half-beat, then the friends *erupt in cheers: they did it!* (And Fergie cannot believe how many different carrots are here!) As the stream ends, the empty treasure chest is the final piece to

fall, which Alice catches just as the skies outside clear and the moonlight shines through - the storm over.

As Dinah dives in with the others, Cookie welcomes them back, asking if they found the treasure. Alice looks at her friends as they laugh and celebrate: "We sure did." Alice and the gang reprise the **ORIGINAL SONG: "RESPECT THE UNEXPECTED"** celebrating their thrilling Halloween, dancing around the bakery.

The SONG comes to a sudden END as there's a knock at the door: "Trick-or-treat!" It's the Queen, Dad Hatter, March Hare, Kiki and Doorknob with treats and goodie bags for the kids. OFF Alice and Cookie's shared smile as they watch their friends and wish everyone a "Happy Halloween!", we... **FADE OUT**.